

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 7, 2003

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS ON MPDC SERVICE

Do you want to help build strong relations between your community and your police department? The DC-based Police Foundation would like to hear about your impressions - both positive and negative - of the MPDC for part of an ongoing study called the Biased Policing Project. DC residents are invited to participate in a community focus group, led by an expert group leader, where you will share your experiences and impressions of Metropolitan Police officers. Your feedback will help the MPDC improve the way it delivers police services to communities throughout the District. Volunteers are especially needed for focus groups of Asian-Americans, Latino residents, Arab and Muslim residents, African-American males ages 18-25, youth (especially African-American, Asian-American and Latino young people), business people (including Asian-American business owners) and members of the faith community. Individuals interested in volunteering for a focus group should contact Ms. Vanessa Correa of the Police Foundation, as soon as possible, at (202) 833-1460. Or you can email her at vcorrea@policefoundation.org. Ms. Correa will be able to answer any questions about the focus groups and will take volunteers' names and phone numbers in order to contact them later. Individuals selected to participate in a focus group will be notified of the date, time and location of the focus group meeting.

① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=1954>

① Learn more about the overall goals and implementation of the MPDC's Biased Policing Project by clicking on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=1573>

① The Police Foundation has been working to improve police-community relations and advocate for new ideas in policing for more than three decades. Find out more about this DC-based organization:
<http://www.policefoundation.org/>

7D OFFICER WHO HELPED TO IDENTIFY MURDER SUSPECT IS HONORED AS DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER OF MONTH

Last November, 70-year-old Lucille Batchelor was found murdered inside her Southeast residence, a crime that shocked her family and the community. Soon after the incident, investigators discovered that the victim's credit cards were missing and had, in fact, been used in an attempt to withdraw cash at area ATMs. Detectives quickly gathered photographs of the suspect and shared them with Officer Todd Williams of the Seventh District. Knowledgeable of the community he serves, Officer Williams was able to identify the subject, who was also believed to have delivered food to the victim's home on the day prior to the homicide being discovered. Officer Williams then assisted with the apprehension of the suspect, who was interviewed by detectives assigned to the Violent Crimes Branch, and subsequently charged with First Degree Murder While Armed. Officer Williams's knowledge of his 7D community and his teamwork with detectives resulted in the apprehension of a dangerous murder suspect. For his efforts, Williams was recognized as the Department-wide Officer of the Month during the March CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) Awards Luncheon, held March 5 at the Hilton Washington Embassy Row. He was one of nine MPDC officers honored this month for outstanding service to the community.

① Get more information about their heroic actions at:
mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/03.shtm

“OPERATION FIGHT BACK” CONTINUES TARGETING NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME AND DISORDER IN 4D

“Operation Fight Back” is a concentrated, multi-agency strategy designed to tackle stubborn crime and disorder problems in specific neighborhoods throughout DC. The strategy involves a number of different approaches, including serving arrest warrants, conducting safety checkpoints, carrying out building and business inspections, towing abandoned vehicles, cleaning up trash and reaching out to residents in the community. The first “Operation Fight Back” was conducted in early February, in the 4400 and 4500 block of Gault Place, NE, in the Sixth District. This past week, the strategy was brought to the Park View neighborhood of the Fourth District, bordered generally by Park Place, Georgia Avenue, Morton Street and Warder Street, NW. The MPDC designed and carried out the operation in conjunction with the DC Housing Authority, the DC Fire and EMS Fire Prevention Bureau, the Court Supervision and Offender Services Agency, Neighborhood Action, Orange Hat Patrols and No Murders DC, Inc. Results included the serving of several warrants, various clean-up projects, and increased outreach to residents served by Police Service Area (PSA) 414. Chief Ramsey has announced that “Operation Fight Back” will be carried out on a regular basis in all seven police districts. To learn more about planned operations in your area, contact your local police district.

TO CUT DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING, FREE CAB RIDES OFFERED ON ST. PATRICK’S DAY

Again this year, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) will be offering free cab rides home for St. Patrick’s Day revelers who have had too much to drink. The 2003 St. Patrick’s Day SoberRide Campaign will run from 4 pm to 4 am on Sunday, March 16 and Monday, March 17. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), individuals can call 800-200-8294 (TAXI) or #8294 (TAXI) on your AT&T Wireless telephone. Individuals must be age 21 or older to use the SoberRide service, and free cab rides are provided to an individual’s residence only. A news conference to announce the 2003 St. Patrick’s Day SoberRide Campaign will be held on Friday, March 14, at Fado Irish Pub & Restaurant in Northwest DC. The MPDC is a partner with WRAP in a number of impaired driving prevention programs, including SoberRide, which has provided nearly 22,000 free cab rides on major holidays since 1993.

- ① For more information about the SoberRide program, click on:
http://www.wrap.org/programs_adult.html
- ① DC’s drunk driving law have gotten tougher. For details on the laws and penalties associated with drunk driving in DC, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm>

NEWS & NOTES

Public Hearing on Detective Hiring Legislation. The MPDC will testify before the DC Council’s Judiciary Committee on March 11 concerning proposed legislation that would allow the Department to hire back retired MPDC detectives under a new Senior Detectives program and to hire experienced detectives from other agencies under a new Lateral Senior Detectives programs. Chief Ramsey has proposed both programs as a way to boost experience levels within the MPDC’s investigative ranks.

Anti-War Protest on March 15. The group ANSWER has scheduled a large anti-war rally and demonstration on Saturday, March 15 in and around the National Mall and downtown DC. To help ensure public safety during this event, the MPDC anticipates activating its network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras on March 15.

Street Sweeping Resumes March 17. DC motorists are reminded that mechanical street sweeping resumes on March 17, following the traditional winter hiatus. Note that parking fines for violating street sweeping regulations have increased this year from \$20 to \$30.

DC Marathon. The DC Marathon will be held this year on Sunday, March 23. Specific street closings associated with this event will be announced shortly. In the meantime, learn more about the marathon – including several different maps of the marathon course – by visiting www.washingtondcmarathon.com.

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 3/7/03)

- 2003: 36
- 2002: 35
- % Change: +2.8%

Arrests (week ending 3/1/03)

- Total: 711
- Drugs: 168

Firearm Recoveries (as of 3/5/03)

- Total: 335
- February: 157

Traffic Fatalities (as of 3/7/03)

- 2003: 6
- 2002: 14
- % Change: -57.1%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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